

worms

Frequently asked questions

How long do worms live? Worms can live up to 10 years! However, in the wild where there are many predators the average lifespan for a worm is 1 - 2 years.

Can you eat worms? It wouldn't hurt you, but they taste really bad.

How much do worms eat? Worms can consume their weight daily. They eat half bedding and half food scraps. Imagine if you ate a pile of food as big as you every day!

How do I Feed My Worms? If you have a Redworm bin, move aside 1/2 of the bedding in the bin and place food scraps. Move bedding back over and cover. A pound of redworms can eat up to around a pound of food in a week, so a 32 oz yogurt container is a good measure for how much food scraps to collect. Check the bin weekly and feed as needed.

Do worms have teeth? Worms do not have teeth and cannot chew their food. They grind their food in their gizzard using muscle action and the help of small gritty bits of soil.

If a worm is cut in half will it make two worms? If just a little bit of a worm is broken off, it can grow a new head or tail. But if you cut a worm in half, it will not live. Worms have 5 hearts located close to their head. If a worm doesn't have all five, blood cannot get to rest of their body.

How do worms make babies? There are no boy or girl worms. They are hermaphrodites and lay cocoons. 3 to 6 worms will hatch on average.

Can worms see (Do worms have eyes)? No, worms don't have eyes. However, they are very sensitive to light and try to hide as soon as they are exposed because they don't want to dry out.

How do worms breathe? Through their skin. That's why worms are slimy and damp. If they dry out they can't breathe.

Why do I find worms on the sidewalk? Worms can drown in heavy rain, so if their tunnels begin to flood they crawl out.

If I find a worm on the sidewalk what should I do? Return it to damp soil! Bury it just a little. It will dig a new tunnel.

How many babies can a worm have in its life? Worms lay about 2 to 4 cocoons a month, so perhaps 100 babies a year!

Can I look for worms outside to add to my worm bin? The worms that live outside are different than the worms in your bin. The worms in your bin are called "Red Wiggler" worms. They like to live in small, dark spaces.

Are there different kinds of worms? Yes! There are about 12,000 species of worms that live in the soil. The longest worm is said to have been 22 feet in length. One large breed of worm is the Giant Gippsland ("Geh"ps-land) earthworm averages 3 feet in length, but when it stretches out it can be 12 feet long and can weigh 1.5 pounds. It lives in Australia.

What do worms do in the winter? In nature, worms go down below the "frost line" (where the freezing cold doesn't reach) and curl up in their burrows. In a worm bin, it is up to the worm bin's owner to make sure it doesn't freeze. Some people will put their worm bin in their garage or house; some will even wrap the bin in a loose blanket.

How deep do worms live in the soil? Earthworms live up to 3 feet deep in the earth, and make zig zagging webs of tunnels, which aerates the soil for plants. Nightcrawlers like to burrow really deep, sometimes 15 feet, and their tunnels go straight up and down. They carry nutrients deep into the soil.

How do worms crawl (Why does a worm's skin sometimes feel rough)? Worms have bristle like things on their skin called "setae" (see-tie). They use setae to grip and pull their bodies along. Worms also crawl by making their bodies long and skinny then short and fat, or "expanding and contracting."

Worms live in apples, right? Actually, the worms you find in apples aren't really "worms". They are larvae and eventually turn into moths or flies! You can tell they aren't really worms because they have very small legs. Earthworms, red wiggler worms, nightcrawlers and similar don't have legs and never turn into anything else.

Which end is the head? The head is slightly pointed. Also, if you watch a worm crawl it will always crawl forward.

Do worms get scared? Worms don't like loud noises or bright light. Worms feel and breathe with their bodies. Worms don't like the light because they are afraid of drying out and suffocating. Noise is very loud to a worm.

Are worms the only things in a worm bin? There are billions of other creatures in a worm bin. Most are microorganisms (too small to see like bacteria and fungi). There are also other critters you can see, including mites, springtails, pill bugs (roly-polies), sow bugs, potworms, soldier fly larvae, and more.

Are red wiggler worms vegetarian? Worms are not necessarily vegetarian. They'll eat meat, it just takes them a long time and if you put meat in a worm bin, it'll start to smell before they eat it all.

Why are worms important? Worms are essential to a healthy earth. They mix the soil, add nutrients, and their tunnels create spaces for air and keep it from getting compacted. Plants need all of these things to grow well. Also, worms clean up nature. They are "decomposers". Picture all the leaves that fall off of the trees, imagine if they never went away! Worms turn leaves, food scraps and dead things into soil that can grow new things. It's a cycle!

